

**Edgar Allan Poe—Biography Notes Worksheet**

**Directions:** Fill-in the blanks as you watch the film.

**Early Childhood:**

Poe was a man both **(1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**and **(2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** by his genius. Poe saw **(3)\_women\_**  as angelic. His mother, Eliza, was an **(4)\_actress\_.** David Poe Jr. was Edgar’s father who abandoned him at age **(5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** There were **(6)\_three\_** children in the Poe family. Eliza had tuberculosis and **(7)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in a poor boarding house. On December 8th, Poe’s mom died at age 24, and Poe was only **(8)three** years of age. Poe carried a **(9)miniature figure** of Elizabeth Poe with him after her death. The three Poe children were scattered to different **(10)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** homes.

**After Adoption:**

Mrs. Allan was fond of Poe, and she and **(11)John** Allan took Poe in. Mr. Allan raised Poe. He gave him good schooling, a good **(12)education,** and fine manners. Poe was very **(13)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** young man. At the age of 15, Poe swam **(14)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** miles against current in the James River! Poe’s first love died of **(15)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** cancer. Poe’s foster mother, Mrs. Allan, also had **(16)tuberculosis (TB).** (The same illness that killed his mom.) John Allan was having affairs in his own house while she was dying. Poe felt that **(17)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** should be treated with respect and dignity.

**College/Early Adulthood:**

Poe was sent to the University of **(18)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** which was rough. Poe had no money for basic necessities (food or clothes), so he was forced to **(19)burn** his furniture in his room to stay warm. Poe was afraid of going to debtor’s **(20) prison**, so he signed up for the army under a false name. In 1828, Poe wrote a **(21)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to John Allan which ended their relationship, after John Allan disowned him. By 20, Poe used his own **(22)funds** to publish his book. Francis Allan (Poe’s foster mother) died of tuberculosis in the year **(23)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Both mothers died of tuberculosis and both fathers rejected him.

**Adulthood:**

In 1831 he moved in with his Aunt Maria Clemm and her 8-year-old daughter, **(24)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** and began to write to help support them. There were no copyright laws and the public set the terms. Publishers said that **(25)”\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”*(****story title)* was too loud. In 1834, Poe was summoned to the deathbed of his foster father John Allan. Allan threatened Poe, left Poe out of his **(26)will** . In 1835, Poe left the Clemm home to be an **(27)editor**. Poe was in conflict with his editors. He had two nicknames: Tomahawk **(28)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and The Commanchee of Literature. Poe was a brutal reviewer. He accused Longfellow of being a plagiarist which made everyone **(29)mad** at him.

**In Love:**

Poe’s Aunt Maria Clemm wrote Poe telling that Virginia, who was **(30)twelve**-years-old, might go to live with her other relatives. Poe went on a drinking binge. He was in love with her! He married his first **(31)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** He thought of her as a cousin, sister, wifey, all at once! Poe was (32)twenty-six-years-old at the time and Virginia was not yet 13 years old. The marriage document was false; it said Virginia was **(33)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-**years-old. Despite their age differences, Virginia and Poe were a (34)loving and devoted couple.

**Late Adulthood/ Struggles:**

Poe’s life was a constant struggle to make ends meet. His drinking increased with poverty. In 1842, Poe showed up **(35)intoxicated** with his cloak inside-out to see the president.

Poe was obsessed with the premature deaths of **(36)loved** ones and yearned for a connection with the supernatural. Poe created the **(37)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** story. In 1843, he wrote “The Tell-Tale Heart” in which the character tells us how he murdered and **(38)chopped** up an old man. Consumption or tuberculosis (TB) causes one to cough up blood. Poe wrote about this as “The **(39)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Death”.** Poe’s mother, stepmother, and **(40)brother** Henry all died of TB. In 1842, Virginia coughed up a drop of **(41)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** She had TB.

In January of 1845, Poe wrote **(42)”The Raven”.** Children would follow him flapping their arms and he would say, “Nevermore.” Poe only earned **(43)$\_\_\_\_\_\_** for “The Raven” and he and Virginia were extremely poor. In “The Raven”, Poe is imagining what it would be like when/if he loses his wife. Poe’s drinking greatly increased as his terror over his wife’s illness increased. He wrote “Annabelle Lee” to Virginia, after her death. It’s a poem about their undying love. Poe never recovered and he was in a mental twilight world and even slept on her (44)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Poe’s 40th year was a struggle to capture the dreams of his ideals of **(45)youth** . Unfortunately, his personal torment kept him from happiness. After Poe’s attempt to find love again and to court/marry others, Poe’s life began to spiral out of control. Towards the end of his life, Poe had bouts of insanity. September 1849, Poe left for Richmond and **(46)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** October 3, 1849, Poe was discovered, delirious and beaten. It is believed he was a victim of political **(47)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** On October 7, 1849, Poe died. One of the reasons Poe speaks to us so clearly is that we all long for an after-life that transcends the power of death.